

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. WO-204

Magi No. 2402045304

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Pitts House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Williams Street ☐ not for publication

city, town Berlin ☐ vicinity of congressional district 1st

state Maryland county Worcester

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name A. Reginald Mariner, II

street & number Sinepuxent Road telephone no.: 301-641-0941

city, town Berlin state and zip code Maryland 21811

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Worcester County Courthouse liber

street & number Market Street folio

city, town Snow Hill state MD 21863

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

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Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Pitts house is a 2½-story dwelling, the sections of which were built at different times. The principal facade (east) facing Williams Street is on a wood frame section that was added to the earlier brick section located behind it. Together these sections form an asymmetrical T-plan, the stem being the brick section. Both sections have gable roofs, with the frame section having a centered cross gable on the principal facade.

The frame unit of the dwelling is five bays across by two bays deep. The entrance is in the central bay and contains a heavily paneled door with two arched panels over two rectangular. The door surround is distinguished by transom and side lights, rectangular-paned. Windows in this section are 2/2 with upper sash being arched in a rectangular surround. The window in the central bay, second floor is stepped-up to accommodate the porch which is discussed later. A gothic window with curved sides is located in the gable peak. Interior brick chimneys are located in the gable ends. most of the interior woodwork featuring painted wood graining is intact.

The porch previously mentioned is of particular note. It is similar in style and form to the porch at Burley Manor (WO-4). It is, however, larger and more detailed, consisting of four simple columns atop metal spikes connected by three dog-toothed arches. Each return end has a large dog-toothed arch. The top of the columns have applied volutes below a deep capital containing oval sun-burst motifs. The presence of this porch style in Berlin prior to the apparent building date of the frame structure raises the possibility that the porch was moved from the front facade of the earlier brick section when the frame section was built.

The brick segment of the dwelling is three bays across and two bays deep. This section is a side hall plan, the entrance being in the first bay of the three-bay gable side. The door surround is an assemblage of period wooden parts featuring reeded boards and corner blocks which also surrounds a transom light designed of intersecting scalloped panes. Windows are 2/2 under flat brick arches. A boxed cornice, modillions and a frieze board designed with arches complete the details on this facade. On the interior, the side hall features a stairway with winders tucked in the rear corner; below the stairs are curved panels. There is evidence on the interior of doors leading to a now-absent adjoining wing on the west; however, exterior evidence of such a wing has been obscured by stucco. An additional wing of few distinguishing characteristics is located behind the brick structure on the north side.

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☒ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Pitts house, important in Berlin history as the home of a notable family of 19th and 20th century surveyors, originally faced Pitts street to the south, Willaims Street being built some years later. The orientation of the house was turned 90° with the addition of the frame section facing Williams Street. Both sections of the house are significant to the town, showing distinctly two 19th c. building styles. The brick section is linked by many details to other dwellings in the town built c. 1825. The rapidly deteriorating condition of the porch and its connection to other porches on tructures of the late Federal period make further study pressing.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Page Hammond

organization Berlin Historic District Commission date November, 1985

street & number 313 South Main Street telephone 301-641-0773

city or town Berlin state MD 21811

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
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21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
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